

Annual Report 2020

Biovision

Foundation for ecological development



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Dear reader,

The Covid-19 crisis of the past year has painfully shown us just how vulnerable our supposedly highly developed society really is. As with the climate crisis, the people in the global south have again been particularly affected. Their hardship and hunger are increasing dramatically – and have been for several years.

This pandemic should finally open everyone's eyes: it is high time we work with nature rather than against it. What we need now are food systems that are more sustainable, more resilient, and that can produce enough healthy food for all. Biovision continues to work hard to achieve this.

Despite the difficult conditions, the Biovision team successfully continued its mission last year under the new leadership of Frank Eyhorn, demonstrating that solutions exist and that the transformation towards sustainable food systems is possible.

I am wholeheartedly grateful that we were able to count on your support again last year, in spite of the challenging circumstances.

With sincere thanks,



Hans R. Herren



“Today, decisive action is no longer ‘an option’, it is an imperative!”

Hans R. Herren
President, Biovision Foundation

Our Impact in 2020

Although financially Biovision is a relatively small development organisation, in terms of impact and innovative strength we are successfully at the forefront – even under difficult conditions.

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic presented Biovision and its partners with major challenges. Where projects could not be implemented according to plan, whenever possible, we adopted innovative solutions in order to move forward. The pandemic highlights, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, the urgent need to promote the resilience of farming families and strengthen local communities. In the field of development cooperation, we continued to develop and disseminate agroecological approaches in 33 projects (see pages 5, 8 and 12).



Sub-Saharan Africa: we develop and disseminate participatory agroecological methods for better food security, more sustainable resource use and resilient communities.



Globally: we convince decision-makers of the need for agro-ecological transformation, impart knowledge, connect stakeholders and promote alliances.



Switzerland: we are committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda, focusing on agriculture and food systems, as well as sustainable consumption.

Our Impact in 2020

Population growth, climate change, pest infestations and, since last year, Covid-19, present great challenges for the people in sub-Saharan Africa who are the most affected by hunger and poverty. Our division “Development Projects” reaches out to them with the “4H+i” approach (4 health areas: human, animal, plant and environmental, plus i for the information programme).



Healthy people,

through protection from communicable diseases and a healthy diet. → Over 40,000 people were tested for Covid-19 in the specially equipped medical laboratory in Jigjiga, Ethiopia.



Healthy livestock,

thanks to our holistic view on animal health in line with the One Health approach. → More than 100,000 Ethiopian pastoralists and their livestock are now better protected against disease by an integrated monitoring system.



Healthy plants,

by promoting research and the dissemination of holistic ecological cultivation methods. → 6,686 men and women received training in integrated natural crop management for tomato, mango, corn and vegetable production.



A healthy environment,

by demonstrating alternative income opportunities that contribute to environmental preservation. → 8,195 women and men attended training courses on beekeeping, agroforestry or cultivation of traditional vegetables.



Access to agroecological knowledge,

through multimedia channels for knowledge dissemination. → Over 2.5 million readers and listeners in East Africa were reached by the “The Organic Farmer” magazine, the associated radio programme and the Infonet website.

In collaboration with political and civil society decision-makers from four continents, and through direct engagement in networks, we shaped better framework conditions for sustainable food systems locally and internationally.

→ The “**Money Flows**” study inspired leading multilateral, research and donor organisations to establish the Transformative Partnership Platform with the goal of building better frameworks for agroecological research. → Major donors, including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation have used the **agroecological analysis grid** developed by Biovision to examine their project portfolios and set ambitious targets for increased agroecology funding. → At the annual conference of the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS), more than **430 participants from 85 countries** learned from concrete examples how sustainable transformation with agroecological elements is possible. → By the end of 2020, more than 270 people from Africa, Asia, America and Europe were already exchanging ideas and receiving practical input for working solutions for the transformation of food systems in the newly founded **Food Policy Forum for Change**. → Together with the FAO and FiBL, Biovision published a widely acclaimed **study on agroecology as a solution to the climate crisis**. → At the initiative of Biovision, the FAO and WWF support governments in anchoring agroecology in their climate goals.



We promoted the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development throughout Switzerland and convinced people of the necessity for the agroecological transformation of food systems.



CLEVER – sustainable consumption: → 92% of visitors to the exhibition said when asked that they would pay more attention to sustainability in their future purchases. → In response to a follow-up survey, 66% stated that they were already implementing at least one specific resolution for more sustainable consumer behaviour. **Sounding Soil – Raising Awareness for Healthy Soils:** → The recording devices for listening to the soil were lent out 180 times. → As a result, ¾ of the participants wanted to learn more about the soil. **SDSN Switzerland:** → The network continues to grow and now has more than 50 members and partners from academia and science, civil society, the private sector and the federal administration. → Three new “Solution Initiatives” were initiated, with among others, WWF Switzerland, the University of St. Gallen or the Impact Hub Lausanne. **Transformation of the Swiss food system:** → Biovision was actively involved in launching the #agroecologyworks network for civil society and public organisations. → The recent “Agriculture with a Future” initiative has furthered the “Vision 2030” for a sustainable and social food system in a participatory manner.

From our projects

Young, motivated and open to new ideas

Due to coronavirus, the 13th ITCOA agroecology seminar for East African students seemed to be on the brink of cancellation. However, thanks to strong teamwork and creative ideas, the 2020 seminar was able to take place – and for the first time was even held in three countries.

By Fabian Kohler, Programme Officer at Biovision

The International Training Course on Organic Agriculture (ITCOA) offers 50 places for students from four universities in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda each year. The two-and-a-half-month event is organised and run by volunteers from the ITCOA alumni network along with dedicated researchers. They supervise the participants, lead field experiments, provide insights into their working world, design the support programme and build bridges between the young people and experienced researchers, active NGOs and innovative companies.

The seminar introduces participants to a more holistic understanding of agriculture, which is still not widespread in many East African agricultural schools and universities. This includes keeping resources in circulation, recognising agriculture as a valuable cultural asset and acknowledging natural processes as possibilities, rather than viewing them as threats. ITCOA thus helps agroecological approaches

Programme of Development Projects for 2020

Despite great flexibility (see main article), not all projects in sub-Saharan Africa could be implemented as planned in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, through swift and determined action, it was possible to make a very real contribution to protecting the population from the pandemic: in collaboration with the Swiss Tropical Institute and Ethiopian partners, a coronavirus test laboratory was set up in Ethiopia. In Kenya, thanks to the Farmer Communication Programme (FCP), smallholder farmers received practical information on disease prevention at an early stage through the farmers' newspapers and radio. In addition, the Training Centre for organic agriculture at Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) quickly incorporated education on prevention against coronavirus into its lesson plans. International partnerships with reputed organisations were established for new projects, e.g. with ICRAF (World Agroforestry Centre), WorldVeg (World Vegetable Centre) and ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics).

Market day: course participants in Morogoro, Tanzania, sell sweets they have made from the fruit of the baobab tree.



to gain more visibility at universities and provides motivated young people with the necessary tools and knowledge to contribute to the implementation of sustainable food systems in a concrete manner. This gives them important impulses and know-how for their professional careers in science, the private sector or politics.

Making three out of one

In the spring of 2020, everything was ready for the programme to take place again with 48 students. But then, the coronavirus pandemic also gained intensity in East Africa. Lockdowns were imposed and opportunities for meetings and travel were restricted. Shortly before it was scheduled to begin, ITCOA was threatened with cancellation. To prevent this, Biovision with the local team, quickly developed a new concept with decentralised events. In addition to the main programme in Uganda, courses were also offered in Kenya and Tanzania. Participants thus benefited from field visits, experimental stations and expert lectures at three venues. The pandemic thereby became the impetus that allowed the seminar to further develop and even expand geographically. This laid a strong foundation for the future of the agroecology seminar.

ITCOA as a springboard

The seminar, which has been running since 2005, is a true “change-maker training” and has produced some prominent representatives of the international agroecology movement: Ugandan Edie Mukiibi, for example, who attended the seminar in 2007 and is now Vice President of Slow Food International. Or Janet Maro, a 2010 participant, co-founder and now co-CEO of the renowned Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) centre of excellence, who remembers the seminar vividly: “ITCOA opened my eyes to new ways of working with farmers. I received a very good theoretical and practical overview of organic farming from the knowledgeable experts. The seminar also helped us to build a strong international network of like-minded people. This has been a key success factor in the development of our organisation.” Around 500 other agricultural enthusiasts who have attended the agroecology seminar in the past are now contributing their acquired knowledge at various levels. As trailblazers and role models, they are inspiring the next generations of students and professionals in the field of organic agriculture.



“ITCOA gave me a profound understanding of ecological agriculture and taught me the strengths of thinking in systems and along value chains.”

Dendry Hellen Oswago (22, Kenya)



Every ITCOA course covers the correct way to make and use compost.



Food security in rural Ethiopia

In southwestern Ethiopia, rural households are struggling with soil degradation and crop failures. Working together, they are taking measures to limit soil erosion and also to diversify their sources of income, in order to protect themselves from crises.

By Stefan Diener, Programme Officer at Biovision

We sit and wait in the shade of an acacia tree in Nuna Raba, a village in the Ethiopian province of Siraro. I am travelling in southwest Ethiopia with Harald Grabher, project officer from Caritas Austria, to visit the partners of our joint project. Across from us, a group of women are engaged in animated discussion. They belong to the savings and credit cooperative "Biftu", the word for "sunrise" in the local Oromo language. The group was founded as part of the "Food Security in Rural Ethiopia" project. Now, like us, they are waiting for Robdu Worana, the keeper of the group's treasury. Robdu finally

Catchment ditches for rainwater help combat progressive erosion. The fertile soil that collects in the trenches holds water, retaining it longer for the plants.

arrives with a heavy metal box secured with three padlocks. This contains the savings that the group members have collected by making regular contributions of about 20 cents per month. If one of the women needs money for a large purchase, for example to buy a goat or for a visit to the doctor, the group decides together on the repayment conditions.

Soil fertility and income

The credit cooperative is just one of several initiatives that the project participants, with the support of the team of Tesfaye Fetenu, project manager at the Social Development Coordinating Office of Meki of the Ethiopian Catholic Church (SDCOM), have implemented in the region over the past few years to make households more resilient. This applies not only to social challenges such as sickness or a collapse in prices of agricultural products, but above all to droughts and floods.



“What is the cash situation?”
*Rukia Safawo, accountant
at the Biftu Savings and Credit
Association, gives the project
team an insight into the books.*

The project focuses on two areas: on measures to preserve soil fertility and also diversification of income opportunities in order to support the livelihoods of the stakeholders through a variety of income sources. To protect the soil against devastating erosion, embankments and ditches are constructed to guide the precious water back into the ground so that it does not run off unused. Since rainwater does not recognise property boundaries, an important task for the project team is mediation between landowners and the organisations they have formed. Construction work is carried out jointly and across multiple properties during the dry season so that the water is available in time for planting.

Introduction of efficient stoves

One of the most sustainable measures against erosion is deforestation prevention. In Ethiopia, 99% of rural households still use wood for cooking. This puts heavy demand on the few remaining trees. “It is of

little use, if the 150,000 or so trees we have planted during the course of the project are then cleared for firewood”, says project leader Tesfaye Fetenu. “That’s why we promote the use of efficient fire sites. Traditionally, a cooking pot is placed on three stones over an open fire, which wastes a lot of energy. The new, closed fireplaces require much less wood. They produce less smoke and are therefore also less damaging to health.”

Focus on women’s empowerment

Training in beekeeping, goat and chicken keeping or the establishment of permaculture gardens, all make a significant contribution to the financial security of the poorest households in the districts of Arsi Negele and Siraro. In the course of the project, the state agricultural advisory service was also integrated into the training programme in order to ensure technical support even after project completion. And thanks to a new initiative by SDCOM, tried and tested measures in the Tiyo and Hitosa regions are now being further developed and supplemented by placing a strong focus on the advancement of women.



**“Effective protection
against erosion could
only be established
thanks to the
cooperation of the
landowners.”**

Tesfaye Fetenu
Project manager at SDCOM, Ethiopia



Enabling policy environments around the world

Globally, decision makers increasingly seek viable solutions for sustainable policies. A new platform launched in 2020 offers them what they are looking for – and more!

(mgr) Sustainable agriculture and food systems play a prominent role on today's political agenda because of their important impact on health, livelihoods and the environment. Policy makers are increasingly interested in learning how to provide the required framework for this in their national and local settings. In October 2020, Biovision launched a platform tailored to these needs, with the support of Switzerland and Germany. Our "Food Policy Forum for Change" offers interested actors the opportunity to learn more about success stories of sustainable food system transformation and to exchange

Knowledge transfer and the personal exchange of experiences and ideas help strengthen networks of stakeholders and support change. (Archive image: International Roundtable, Zurich 2019)

Policy dialogue and advocacy 2020

Further milestones of the policy and advocacy team (P&A) were the two landmark studies published last year: One on agroecology as an approach to solving the climate crisis with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO and the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL); and another on specific entry points for the promotion of agroecological research with IPES-Food. P&A also helped to promote and strengthen agroecology by liaising with climate stakeholders from different sectors (e.g. from the FAO) and by establishing a network of leading research and donor organisations, with the goal of facilitating transformative research. The demand for knowledge and exchange is reflected in the fact that there are over 80,000 new users of the "Agroecology Infopool" website, where information on agroecology is presented in a targeted manner.

experiences among peers. “It is the first platform to focus consistently on agroecological approaches”, says project manager Charlotte Pavageau, explaining the characteristics of the new project.

In the international spotlight

The Covid-19 crisis posed a particular challenge to the project. Activities had to be constantly adapted to changing conditions, and face-to-face meetings and field visits were not possible. However, Charlotte Pavageau also experienced a positive aspect: “The pandemic gave the discussion about a paradigm shift in the food system additional momentum, as the sustainability aspect has now become more central.” To publicise the newly created platform, the networks of organisations involved¹ in the project were mobilised and the initiative was presented at several virtual events. The most important of these was the presentation at the annual conference of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), reaching key policy makers from around the world. This enabled attention to be successfully drawn to the new Biovision project and contact to be established with interested participants.

Successful start after intense preparation

For the purposes of the project, Biovision specifically created a new “policy champions” database, i.e. a collection of existing laws and regulations to promote agroecology at national and local level. These specific examples illustrate how agroecological principles can be applied in practice. In December, the first event with the members of the new community took place. Case studies from India, Uganda and Denmark, on policy instruments to link agroecological transformation with the development of markets for organic products, and ways to connect agroecological and integrated policies in times of crisis were discussed. “We were all aware that a community cannot be built overnight”, Charlotte Pavageau recalls the start of the project. “We were therefore very pleased with the great interest and the positive feedback after the launch”, she laughs with relief. By the end of 2020, the Food Policy Forum for Change already had 278 members from Africa, America, Asia and Europe; 147 of them are directly involved in shaping policy processes.

¹ IFOAM – Organics International, Millennium Institute, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Transformation of the Swiss food system

Climate change, species extinction, loss of fertile soil: if in Switzerland we succeed in the transformation of our agriculture and food systems, we will make a major contribution to solving some of today's most pressing problems.

(mgr) Agricultural policies, health policies, environmental policies... our current challenges cannot be resolved from within these “silos” alone. A food policy takes a holistic view of the whole system; from production to consumption, to health, sustainability, the economy and social issues. This approach is also recommended by the national research programme “Healthy Nutrition and Sustainable Food Production” (NRP 69) and is also applied by the EU in its “Farm to Fork” strategy. “Biovision’s goal is to break down silos, to bring the various stakeholders together and to help them to develop viable strategies. “We are also committed to improving the political framework in Switzerland”, says Daniel Langmeier, in describing Biovision’s approach.

Biovision builds bridges

Daniel Langmeier is actively engaged in various networks and action groups for this purpose, for example, in the “Agriculture with a Future” initiative launched by young climate activists. They assisted Biovision with the elaboration of its social and sustainable “Vision Agriculture 2030”. Daniel Langmeier was also closely involved in the



“The transformation of food systems is a great opportunity to holistically move forward on issues such as the environment, health and nutrition. Biovision makes a valuable contribution to this.”

Christian Hofer
Director of the Federal Office for Agriculture

strategic planning of the “Food Parliament”, which aims to give young people involved in agricultural and food systems the opportunity to give input and help shape the future of food policy. In the “Agricultural Alliance” in 2020 (members include Bio Suisse, WWF, FiBL, Consumer Protection), he was instrumental in drafting a new strategy, which will focus strongly on a holistic nutrition policy for the future. In this commitment, Daniel Langmeier sees Biovision’s uniqueness and strength in the fact that “we are not a lobbying organisation with vested interests in social or economic groups, nor are we a campaign organisation. This is appreciated by all sides and strengthens us in our role as a bridge builder.”

“We must pull together”

The transformation of the Swiss food system was also the topic of Biovision’s “forum KURSWECHSEL” (Changing Course) at the end of the year (see text on p. 28). Renowned guests such as climate activist Dominik Waser, “natural cuisine chef” Rebecca Clopath and Christian Hofer, Director of the Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG, participated in a panel discussion with Biovision board member, organic farmer and member of the Swiss Council of States Maya Graf, along with Biovision’s President Hans Herren. Their agreed conclusion at the end: all must pull together to bring about a change of course in our food systems.

*From the pitchfork to the tablespoon:
a holistic view of our food system and
ecological, fair consumer behaviour lead to
greater sustainability.*

Programme Switzerland 2020

The commitment to the implementation of the “Agenda 2030” for sustainable development in Switzerland was multifaceted in 2020: in Chur and Lucerne, for example, CLEVER raised awareness about sustainable consumption and organised 120 guided tours through the exhibition and published the guidebook “ÖKOlogisch!” with the Beobachter publishing house. Biovision launched the topic of sustainable consumption in French-speaking Switzerland, participated in events and was present in the media (e.g. “Terre & Nature” and Radio RTS).

In addition to its general meeting and a panel discussion in Geneva, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Switzerland held several virtual events; one in collaboration with the National Research Programme 73, where over 280 participants from research, business, NGOs and the public sector exchanged views on new opportunities for a sustainable economy. In the Citizen Science offering of the “Sounding Soil” project, (sustainable care of soil) 180 people participated in making recordings of sounds from the soil.



Purpose and vision

Biovision sees itself as a pioneer of change and bridge builder for sustainable development.

Biovision has been promoting ecological solutions to reduce poverty and improve food security in sub-Saharan Africa since 1998. It develops and circulates practice-oriented agroecological knowledge and action through its strong partner network. Biovision aligns its work with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Agenda 2030, particularly Goal 2, "Zero Hunger".

As a pioneer of change, Biovision advocates a fundamental, agroecological transformation of food systems. As a solution-oriented, pragmatic organisation, it builds bridges to connect a variety of stakeholders. Transferring knowledge, raising public awareness, and developing feasible political strategies and conducive framework conditions are important parts of its activities. Biovision shows that agroecological approaches work.

In Switzerland, Biovision is raising public awareness for a change in behaviour towards sustainable consumption. It is working for solution-oriented, scientifically grounded social and political framework conditions that facilitate the transformation towards sustainable food systems.

Our Vision:

"A world with enough healthy food for all, produced by healthy people in a healthy environment."

Organisation

Foundation Board

This is the highest body within Biovision; it takes overall responsibility for the organisation and sets its strategic direction.

The Foundation Board currently consists of six independent members who all provide their services on an honorary basis. It appoints the CEO, approves the Annual Financial Statements and Annual Budget



Dr. Hans Rudolf Herren
Founding member, President of the Foundation Board, Agronomist/Entomologist, Laureate Right Livelihood Award. Core activities in design and implementation of sustainable development policies.



Dr. Barbara Frei Haller
Pharmacist and lecturer in ethnopharmacy at ETH Zurich. Her research activities include work undertaken in East Africa in the field of malaria prevention. Member of the Governing Council of Icipe.



Paula Daepen-Dion
A longstanding UN NGO representative who builds and nurtures international contacts, she is involved in numerous non-profit organisations with a particular focus on women's issues.



Mathis Zimmermann
Lawyer whose specialist areas include foundation law; partner in the law firm Steinbrüchel Hüssy. Founder Member of Biovision.



Maya Graf
Organic farmer, social worker and member of the Council of States (Green Party BL). Commitment, among other things, to the implementation of the World Agricultural Report (IAASTD) and a GMO-free, sustainable agriculture and food economy.



Prof. Dr. Ruedi Baumgartner
Former Co-Director of NADEL (ETH Zurich), active in the area of continuing education programmes for development and cooperation.

CEO's Report

Thanks to team spirit, strong partnerships and the extraordinary solidarity of its members and benefactors, Biovision successfully mastered the challenges that the year 2020 presented to us all, with the global pandemic.

By Frank Eyhorn, Biovision CEO

Biovision continues to progress

After a successful change in management, Biovision continues to grow, thrive and achieve greater impact. That is good for the world. In view of the enormous challenges – increase in poverty, malnutrition, loss of biodiversity and climate change – our work is needed more than ever. Financially, we are still one of the smaller development organisations, but in terms of impact and innovation, we are successfully positioned out in front. This is thanks to a prudent Foundation Board, a capable and highly motivated team, as well as reliable partner organisations in Switzerland, Africa and on the international stage. Our issues are now attracting more attention in Switzerland, and our new office in Geneva has enabled us to strengthen our commitment in French-speaking Switzerland.

Ready for the future

In a participatory process, we developed an ambitious 2021–2024 strategy. While the vision and focus of our work remain unchanged, we want to achieve our goals even more effectively and measure this impact even more accurately. In our projects in Africa, we are putting more emphasis on promoting the resilience of farming families and strengthening local partners. In Switzerland and in international engagement, we are increasingly working as a bridge builder to gain the support of various stakeholders for the transformation of food systems.

In alliance with CEAS (Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer, see portrait on page 30), we submitted an application to the SDC for the expansion of our international programme. This received high marks: we meet the strict quality requirements for a purposeful use of funds as well as professional and transparent development cooperation. This is good news for our partners, for the people in Africa we support, and for the world, as it allows us to strengthen our involvement.

The challenges of 2020 mastered...

Covid-19 has also presented us and our partners with major challenges. Not all projects could be implemented as planned last year. However, together we developed solutions, so that in most cases we could move forward, despite difficult conditions. For example; we greatly expanded the programme for the dissemination of organic farming methods with Biovision Africa Trust, and we relaunched the project for tomato production without pesticides with the insect research institute *icipe*. Necessity is the mother of invention and so, we found ways to contribute to a better world through virtual interactions, even when working from home. The symposium, which was always well attended by members and benefactors, unfortunately could not take place, but a new format “forum KURSWECHSEL” was launched (see page 28). A strong team spirit, the trusting relationships with our partners, as well as the extraordinary support of members and benefactors, have helped us through the crisis. We are especially grateful for your solidarity even in these difficult times.

... and the opportunities for 2021 in sight

We have rolled up our sleeves to implement our significantly more extensive work programme in 2021 – despite Corona. Hunger and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa threaten to become even greater concerns due to the long-term consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. Our move towards greater dissemination of sustainable organic farming methods is intended to help small farmer families lead self-determined lives with sufficient healthy food and income. On the international stage, we anticipate a super year with various food, climate and biodiversity summits planned. And in Switzerland, too, there are important opportunities to drive forward an ecological transformation of our food systems.

We look forward to this work and to meeting you in person!

***The Biovision Executive Board
2020 (from left to right):
Fabio Leippert, Ueli Würmli,
Alexandra Arnold, Andreas Sicks,
Sabine Lerch, Frank Eyhorn,
Martin Grossenbacher***



Strong team spirit at Biovision

Thanks to public events, our supporters experience Biovision up close and personal. In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic put considerable obstacles in our way. New ideas and flexibility were needed.

(mgr) "The closeness and personal exchanges between Biovision and its benefactors were a great motivation for me when I took up my position in February", says event manager Daniela Rhyner with a smile. She still vividly remembers the moment when the coronavirus pandemic turned everything upside down at Biovision: "We were in the middle of preparing for our spring event in Solothurn when the lockdown came into effect." This marked the beginning of a period of great uncertainty and challenges for the Biovision team, in which flexibility and mutual support were more vital than ever.

"The changes were a feat of strength", Daniela Rhyner explains. "The Biovision crisis team reacted quickly with a supportive framework. Thanks to mutual assistance, we soon adjusted to the new 'normal' together." From then on, working from home, video conferences and virtual team coffee breaks shaped everyday working life. In the

summer, Daniela Rhyner was able to hold the first event with an audience. "Finally meeting people face to face was a great experience. It gave everyone a boost", she says with enthusiasm. Unfortunately, it soon became apparent, that the situation was threatening to tip back in autumn. "For the symposium in November, which in the past attracted up to 1,000 guests, we started planning several scenarios. In the end, we held an online event 'forum KURSWECHSEL' with prominent guests, which received a lot of positive feedback¹. The flexibility and cohesion in the Biovision team during this time were impressive", says Daniela Rhyner as she looks back with gratitude on her first year at Biovision.

*The Biovision team:
committed in heart and mind.*



¹ 282 people attended live on Saturday 28 November 2020; the video of the event has been viewed on YouTube over 900 times since December.

Partners and networks

Biovision can rely on strong partnerships, local institutions and diverse networks to implement its projects.

Biovision works globally, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa and Switzerland. We develop projects in sub-Saharan Africa in collaboration with the beneficiaries and experts from renowned partner organisations and research institutions. Local project officers remain in close contact with programme coordinators in Switzerland. This ensures that we can provide professional guidance. Our local involvement often includes training programmes and professional support, which contributes to achieving sustainable project success. Besides the applied project work, we are active in various national and international networks. In Switzerland, we endeavour to create better political framework conditions, raise awareness about sustainable consumption among the population, and mobilise support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At international level, we work with influential organisations, pass on knowledge and propose solutions in relation to sustainable food systems to groups of specialists, and bring together decision-makers from the worlds of politics, business and civil society.

In 2020, Biovision invested financial and human resources in 40 projects and cooperated with more than 60 partners in Switzerland and abroad.

Alliance between Biovision and CEAS

Biovision has had a strategic partnership with the Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer (CEAS) since 2019. The Swiss based NGO has been active in the field of development cooperation since 1980. Its vision is a world in which everyone can contribute to social and economic development and to the protection of the environment. While the goals and approaches of the two organisations are similar, CEAS is active in different countries (Burkina Faso, Senegal and Madagascar) and has a additional thematic focus with renewable energy, sustainable waste management and the development of value chains. Through their alliance, Biovision and CEAS are expanding their thematic and geographic impact and increasing their capacity to accelerate the transformation of agriculture and food systems in seven African countries and beyond.

More about CEAS:
www.ceas.ch



73-NRP – Sustainable Economy, National Research Programme, Switzerland
Agrarallianz, Switzerland
Allianz Pestizidreduktion, Switzerland
Biblosuisse Association
bioRe® Foundation, Switzerland
Bioversity International
BvAT – Biovision Africa Trust, Nairobi, Kenya
Caritas Meru, Kenya
Caritas Austria – Feldkirch dioceses
CDE – Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern
CE² – Circular Economy Entrepreneurs
CEAS – Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer
Civil-Society Platform Agenda 2030
CLARA group (Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance)
Climate Action Network (CAN)
Climate Alliance, Switzerland
CNS FAO – Swiss national FAO Committee
Collaboratio Helvetica
ECC-SDCOM – Ethiopian Catholic Church – Social Development Coordinating Office of Meki, Ethiopia
ECOSOC – UN Economic and Social Council (General Consultative Status)
ecovia – Landschaft, Wasser, Bildung, Switzerland
ETH Zurich
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

FAO – Scaling up agroecology Initiative
FRC – Fédération Romande des Consommateurs, Commission “agriculture et alimentation”
FSO – Federal Statistical Office, Switzerland
FGC – Fédération Genevoise de Coopération
FH – Food for the Hungry
Fibl – Research Institute for Organic Agriculture, Switzerland
GA – Global Alliance for the Future of Food
Globe Switzerland
HAFL – School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, Switzerland
ICE – Institute for Culture and Ecology, Kenya
icipe – International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kenya
ICRAF – International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
IDS – Institute for Development Studies, UK
IFOAM – Organics International
ILRI – International Livestock Research Institute
Impact Hub Switzerland
Initiative “4 pour 1000”
IPES-Food – International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems
Landwirtschaft mit Zukunft, Switzerland
LED – Liechtensteinischer Entwicklungsdienst
MAI/MOALFI – Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Kenya
MAK – Makerere University Kampala, Uganda

Mercator Foundation, Switzerland
MI – Millennium Institute, USA
NABO – Swiss Soil Monitoring Network
One Planet Network – Sustainable Food Systems Programme
Prometra Uganda
SAT – Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania
SCNAT – Swiss Academy of Sciences
SDC – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDSN – UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
SDSN – Switzerland
SMG – Swiss Malaria Group – network of players involved in fighting malaria
Soils, Food and Healthy Communities, Malawi
Sustainability Week Switzerland
Swiss TPH – Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
Tanzania – NGO Roundtable
VSF Suisse – Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Switzerland
WSL – Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research
ZHAW – Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften
ZhdK – Zurich University of the Arts

Many thanks!

Biovision remains a successful organisation thanks to generous contributions from private donors and institutional partnerships.

A world with enough healthy food for us all, produced by healthy people in a healthy environment – this is our vision, and we need to put it into practice more urgently than ever. Farmers are visibly suffering as a result of climate change, the scale of biodiversity is in dramatic decline and world hunger levels are increasing. We would like to thank all those who share our vision and have provided us with financial support in 2020!

The following organisations have supported our projects with particularly generous contributions:

Foundations

atDta Foundation – helping others to help themselves, Alfred and Eugenie Baur Foundation, Eckenstein-Geigy-Stiftung, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz, Helena Charitable Foundation, Ikea Foundation, Laguna Foundation, Leopold Bachmann Foundation, Medicor Foundation, Mercator Swiss Foundation, Nord-Süd Foundation, Pancivis Foundation, Stiftung Dreiklang, Stiftung Drs. Werner und Louise Greuter-Briner, Stiftung Fürstl. Kommerzienrat Guido Feger, SV Stiftung, Tarbaca Indigo Foundation, Temperatio Foundation, U.W. Linsi Foundation, unaterra Foundation, Wilsdorf Mettler Future Foundation

Public bodies and church communities

Canton of Aargau, Canton of Obwalden, City of Bülach, City of Geneva, City of Lancy, City of Le Grand-Saconnex, City of Onex, City of Rapperswil-Jona, City of Solothurn, Finance Department of the City of Zurich, Finance Directorate of the Canton of Zurich, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Republic and State of Geneva – Service for International Solidarity & Office for International Geneva, Liechtenstein Development Service (LED), Municipal administration Herrliberg, Municipality of Anières, Municipality of Berikon, Municipality of Troinex, Municipality of Zollikon, Reformed Church of Wallisellen, Roman Catholic Parish of Bülach, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Enterprises

Apotheke Frey AG, Binkert Partnerinnen AG, Brother (Switzerland) AG, Claro-Gruppe Schöftland, Family Brack, Claro Weltladen Interlaken, Delinat AG, DigiDoc GmbH, Echo Büromöbel, Ernst & Cie AG, G. Rohner AG, Hofstetter Holding AG, Iws Solar AG, Jakober F. Vermögensverwaltungs AG, Marti Engineering AG, QoQa Services SA, Rex-Royal AG, Sotronik GmbH, Spalinger & Partner, Studer + Strauss Bauphysik, Swisslux AG, Varistor AG, Victorinox AG

Financial Statements 2020

Notes On the Annual Financial Statement

Income

2020 was another record year for Biovision with income of 10.8 million Swiss francs. This excellent result was reached, thanks to private individual donors and earmarked contributions from institutional partners, despite the major challenges faced during the pandemic year 2020. Within the framework of our institutional partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), we received a programme contribution of 1.165 million Swiss francs. A further increase was reported in supporter membership fees, which came to 1.1 million Swiss francs. Biovision also received bequests totalling 0.87 million Swiss francs in 2020.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks for the trust placed in us by our loyal donors, whose contributions have always been the bedrock for Biovision, allowing us to realise the Foundation's mission. We would also like to say a big thank you to our institutional partners and the SDC, whose project and programme contributions in 2020, once again, enabled us to make a sustainable commitment to our priority themes – in Switzerland, globally and with our project partners in sub-Saharan Africa.

Project expenditure

Due to the global Corona pandemic, Biovision was able to invest significantly less in projects in 2020 than planned, at around 7.1 million Swiss francs (6% less than the previous year). The under-spending is mainly explained by development project delays, the cancellation, postponement or virtually conducted conferences and meetings in the area of policy dialogue and advocacy, as well as cancelled, postponed or reduced awareness-raising activities in the Swiss programme. Fortunately, for all ongoing projects in sub-Saharan Africa, the financing, and the operation of the projects with our local project-partners was secured, despite the pandemic.

Fundraising and general advertising expenditure

Collective expenditure is calculated in accordance with the current ZEWO regulations. The spending on fundraising and advertising amounted to around 1.5 million Swiss francs, which represents 16% of Biovision's overall expenses. This expenditure allows Biovision to obtain diversified financing and to benefit from a strong donor base.

Administrative expenditure

Administrative expenses amounted to around 1.0 million Swiss francs, slightly lower than in the previous year at 10.7% of Biovision's overall expenses.

Outcome

In 2020, Biovision recorded a positive variance following fund adjustment with a surplus of 1.18 million Swiss francs. The positive balance will be allocated to organisational capital; of this, 0.98 million Swiss francs will be apportioned to tied capital for projects and 200,000 Swiss francs to free capital.

Outlook

Biovision plans an ambitious programme for 2021 with project expenditure of 10.5 million Swiss francs. This is made possible by the increased SDC contribution totaling 3.99 million Swiss francs. Thanks to the positive financial outcome achieved in 2020, Biovision can not only intensify projects and partnerships in sub-Saharan Africa, but also with the increased programme scope, ensure the prescribed reserve quota according to ZEWO guidelines.



“Biovision was able to keep all projects running despite the pandemic. This was possible thanks to loyal members, supporters and institutional donors, as well as strong partnerships.”

*Alexandra Arnold
Head of Finance, HR & Administration*

Balance sheet

in CHF¹

Assets	2019	2020
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,274,625	6,195,911
Other short-term receivables	143,963	140,873
Project accounts – partner organisations	358,229	460,369
Inventories	6,412	5,129
Prepayments and accrued income	2,331	2,331
Outstanding donations	90,225	269,000
Total current assets	5,875,785	7,073,612
Non-current assets		
Tangible and intangible assets	28,421	19,575
Total non-current assets	28,421	19,575
Total assets	5,904,206	7,093,188
 Liabilities	 	
Current liabilities		
Payables from goods and services	189,666	212,560
Other short-term liabilities	209,302	190,171
Project accounts – partner organisations	173,326	98,889
Accrued liabilities and deferred income	163,830	205,548
Total current liabilities	736,124	707,167
Restricted fund capital²		
Health of people	0	0
Health of animals	59,189	0
Health of plants	184,175	178,982
Health of the environment	22,872	83,804
Project development	0	0
Political dialogue and advocacy	0	229,531
Programme for Switzerland	0	0
Programme contribution IP SDC	164,370	0
Total restricted fund capital	492,316	455,288
Organisational capital		
Foundation capital	50,000	1,238,849
Restricted reserves	257,938	4,604,856
Unrestricted reserves	4,404,856	5,893,705
Total organisational capital	7,093,188	5,904,206
Total liabilities	9,952,392	9,952,392
 <i>Change compared with previous year</i>	 9%	 8%
 Expenses	 	
Project expenses		
Development and cooperation	-3,888,582	-3,549,242
Political dialogue and advocacy	-928,273	-1,018,955
Programme for Switzerland	-2,563,438	-2,242,657
Other project expenses	-115,755	-261,278
Total project expenses	-7,496,048	-7,072,132
 <i>Change compared with previous year</i>	 -6%	 -7%
Fundraising and advertising expenditure	-1,544,228	-1,010,508
Management and administration		
Staff costs	-834,242	-802,729
Administrative expenses	-273,161	-176,481
Total for management and administration	-1,107,403	-979,210
Total expenses	-9,595,570	-9,613,959
 <i>Change compared with previous year</i>	 -0.2%	 -5%
 Operating result	 338,433	 1,269,853
before financial result and change in fund capital		
Financial income	-5,385	-4,976
Extraordinary result	8,744	2,522
Currency translation gains	6,656	-49,460
Total financial result	10,014	-51,914
Result before change in fund capital		
Withdrawal of restricted fund capital	4,662,286	1,217,939
Allocation of restricted fund capital	-4,684,650	-5,000,748
Total change in fund capital	-22,364	-37,028
 Annual financial result	 326,083	 1,180,911
after financial result and change in fund capital (before allocation to organisational capital)		
All allocation restricted reserves	0	-980,911
Allocation unrestricted reserves	326,083	-200,000

Income statement

in CHF¹

Income	2019	2020
Unrestricted donations	3,710,055	3,844,902
Earmarked donations	3,519,650	3,835,748
Project and programme contributions	1,165,000	1,165,000
Donor membership contributions ³	1,104,998	877,763
Legacies	1,080,524	37,013
Other income	413,339	63,824
Total operating income	10,865,423	10,865,423
 <i>Change compared with previous year</i>	 9%	 9%
 Expenses	 	
Project expenses	-3,888,582	-3,549,242
Development and cooperation	-928,273	-1,018,955
Political dialogue and advocacy	-2,563,438	-2,242,657
Programme for Switzerland	-115,755	-261,278
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Allocation unrestricted reserves	326,083	-200,000

Project expenses

in CHF¹

Biovision invests in three areas of activity: Development projects, Political dialogue and advocacy; projects and raising awareness in Switzerland (implementation of Agenda 2030).

		2019	2020
Development projects			
Health of plants			
DPP_001	Push-Pull: Diversity through Participatory Research	214,967	152,480
DPP_002	Long-Term System Comparison	113,683	115,086
DPP_005	Fruit Fly Control	90,025	119,498
DPP_008	Food security in rural Ethiopia	146,642	98,295
DPP_010	Push-Pull in sub-Saharan Africa	0	723,269
DPP_011	Agroecology Centre in Tanzania	308,369	300,102
DPP_012	Combatting the Tomato Leafminer Moth	150,338	123,090
DPP_013	Promoting food security through sustainable ecological farming systems	26,659	0
DPP_014	Agroecology for more Food Security in Burundi	49,335	0
DPP_015	Strong Communities and Organic Farming in Malawi	94,972	0
DPP_016	Evidence for the feasibility of scaling up agroecology	48,267	0
Total, Health of plants		1,243,258	1,631,820
Health of the environment			
DPE_002	Reviving Traditional Knowledge	86,434	88,242
DPE_003	Forest School Mpigi	79,145	101,035
DPE_006	Local seed increases biodiversity	134,008	95,629
DPE_007	Bees for young entrepreneurs	111,863	131,790
DPE_008	Beekeeping and Mangrove Protection in Zanzibar	75,696	0
Total, Health of the environment		487,146	416,696
Health of animals			
DPA_002	Camels for Drought Areas	148,354	99,501
DPA_005	Tsetse fly control	137,301	71,820
DPA_006	One Health - disease prevention for humans and animals	0	142,172
DPA_007	Information system for diseases and droughts	63,445	76,721
DPA_008	Sustainable Rangeland Management in Kenya	69,441	0
DPA_009	Trees for Animal Welfare	31,689	0
DPA_010	Harvesting sand use of desert locusts by local communities	14,321	0
Total, Health of animals		464,551	390,214
Health of humans			
DPH_001	Stop malaria	0	32,809
DPH_002	Stop DDT	0	39,036

		2019	2020
DPH_003	Innovative Disease Prevention for Animals and People	192,365	111,317
Total, Health of humans		192,365	183,162
Dissemination of information			
DPI_001	TOF Farmer Magazine	203,942	202,882
DPI_002	TOF Radio	184,186	162,510
DPI_003	Advice in the Field	340,367	303,085
DPI_004	Farmer Magazine in Swahili	204,557	230,257
DPI_005	Infonet-Biovision	152,387	255,330
DPI_006	EOA BvAT Capacity Building	28,938	30,374
DPI_009	The New Agroecology Seminar	25,334	30,948
DPI_010	Impact assessment of MLM farmer magazine	22,211	51,303
Total, Dissemination of information		1,161,922	1,266,689
Other project expenditure			
DPG	Small grants and project development funds	107,950	82,609
DPG	Contribution to Covid-19 Emergency Response	45,234	0
PPF_001	Operational Support and Capacity Building ByAT	108,095	33,146
Total, Development projects		3,810,521	4,004,336
Political dialogue and advocacy			
PDA_002	More research for agroecology	423,778	540,399
PDA_003	Agroecology against climate change	356,482	387,874
PDA_004	Peer-to-peer exchange among policy makers	183,642	0
PDA_005	Building Capacity at the Local Government Level	214	0
PPF_002	Book project "IAASTD – 10 years later"	54,840	0
Total, Political dialogue and advocacy		1,018,955	928,273
Programme for Switzerland			
CHC_001	Sustainable consumption	257,689	376,193
CHC_002	Sustainable consumption in Romandie	79,110	0
CHS_001	Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Switzerland	499,957	429,677
CHS_002	Soundning Soil	118,495	141,525
CHS_003	Transforming food systems in Switzerland	82,022	62,730
CHI_000	Raise awareness for sustainability issues	1,205,383	1,553,314
Total, Programme for Switzerland		2,242,657	2,563,439

¹ Centimes rounded up or down

² The reported restricted funds indicate the capital that is earmarked for certain purposes but has not yet been spent.

³ Biovision uses the term "member" to denote a donor to the Foundation rather than in the legal sense of an affiliation.

The full, audited Financial Statement is available on demand from our office or as a download from www.biovision.ch.

Biovision in figures

Founded in: 1998

Priority countries: Ethiopia, Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Switzerland, Tanzania, Uganda

Number of projects undertaken in 2020: 40

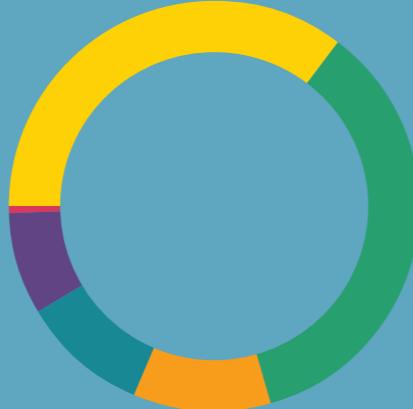
Project partners in Africa in 2020: 17

Project investment in 2020: 7.1 million Swiss francs

Employees in Switzerland in 2020: 46 (35.5 full-time positions)

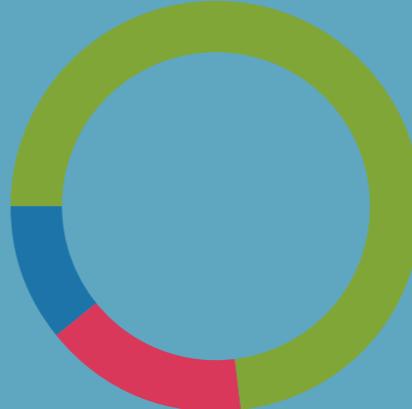
Private donors in 2020: 25,000

Performance Indicators 2020



Source of funds

35.4% Unrestricted donations
35.3% Earmarked donations
10.7% Programme contribution IP SDC
10.2% Donor membership contributions
8.1% Legacies
0.3% Other income



*Deployment of funds**

73.3%** Projects
16% Fundraising and marketing expenses
10.7% Expenses
10.7% Administrative expenses



Expenditures by fields of action

53.9% Development and cooperation
14.4% Political dialogue and advocacy
31.7% Programme for Switzerland

* Expenses including financial income

** Lower than usual due to the corona pandemic

Accountability and transparency

We strive to use donations and membership fees purposefully, efficiently and effectively, and to provide transparent information on how the money is spent.

The Biovision Foundation is politically and financially independent. It reports to the Swiss supervisory body for foundations and is certified by ZEWO. It makes prudent, targeted use of its funds. The Annual Accounts are prepared according to the Swiss GAAP FER 21 expert recommendations on financial reporting, legal requirements, the ZEWO standards and the provisions of the Statutes of the Foundation. The Auditor's Report on the Annual Accounts for 2020 is available for inspection at www.biovision.ch, along with the Statutes.

Auditor

KPMG AG, 8004 Zurich

Status in the USA

The Biovision Foundation has public charity equivalency in the United States in accordance with Section 501(c)(3); donations are tax-deductible in the USA.

General consultative status

Biovision has general consultative status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Biovision is represented on the national FAO committee in Switzerland (CNS-FAO).

Ecological footprint

As an organisation that operates globally, Biovision often finds business travel unavoidable; to attend meetings with project partners in East Africa, for example, or to take part in international conferences. In our operational activities, we pay even greater attention to minimising our ecological footprint and continue to ensure that travel necessary for our international work is organised as efficiently and effectively as possible. In 2020 we produced the equivalent of 31.1 tonnes of CO₂ (2019: 115 tonnes). Our compensation for this amount via MyClimate was used to support the "Savings Groups Enable Women to Afford an Efficient Cooking Stove" project in Kenya. We use certified ecoelectricity at our offices in Zurich and Geneva.

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"Agroecology needs to be scaled up urgently for people and for the planet. I welcome the Biovision's Initiative 'Food Policy Forum for Change' because I believe exchanges and collaborations between regions are critical for scaling."

Vijay Kumar Thallam

Executive Vice Chairman, Farmers' Empowerment Corporation (Ry.S.S) and in charge of implementing Natural farming, Government of Andhra Pradesh

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*Agroecology is the
way out of hunger
and poverty.*



Droughts and pests pose a threat to people in Africa. Thanks to your donation, we strengthen smallholder families by providing them with knowledge of sustainable agriculture: www.biovision.ch

